University Press, New York, NY.


The Holy Book of Tobit

Written by Sarah Farid
St. George, Tampa FL

The Holy Book of Judith

Written by a Mighty Arrow
St. Mary, Houston TX

"Tobias and the Angel," represents God being nearer to us than we think. God is ready to assist us if we remain faithful to Him.

Written in Aramaic, the original Holy Book of Tobit was lost for centuries. The Greek translation, existing in three different recensions', is our primary source. In 1955, fragments of the Holy Book in Aramaic and in Hebrew were recovered from Cave IV at Qumran. These texts are in substantial agreement with the Greek recension that has served as the basis for the present translation. This Holy Book tells the story of Tobit, son of Tobiel of the descendent of Asiel, of the tribe of Naphtali.

Tobit was a righteous man who walked in the ways of truth all of his life. He performed many acts of charity for the people around him. He gave food to the hungry, and clothing to the naked. Tobit buried the bodies of the dead of his people who were thrown out behind the wall of Nineveh.

One time someone told King Sennacherib that Tobit was doing these things, and the king ordered that he be put to death. Tobit ran away and hid from the king, and all his property was taken away. After a while the sons of Sennacherib killed their father, and appointed Ahiakar, which is the son of Tobit's brother Hananel, the cupbearer. Ahiakar interceded for Tobit, and he returned to his family in Nineveh.

The Holy Book of Tobit is like one of the Lord Jesus Christ parables; there may be some historical basis for it but we do not know what it is. The Book of Tobit is a Wisdom Book because it offers instruction on how to live in relation to God and to one's fellow men. Theological points to look for in the Holy Book are that God is nearer to us than we think and He is ready to assist us if we remain faithful to Him. Love for God must be shown in virtuous deeds and not just in words. We should think highly of burying the dead properly, remaining chaste before marriage, being faithful to one's wife or husband, prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

Written by a Mighty Arrow
St. Mary, Houston TX

"Now the Lord said to Abram: 'Get out of your country, from your family and from your father's house, to a land that I will show you.'" (Genesis 12:1)

2007

I. Preparing to Climb the Mountains

"But suppose they will not believe me or listen to my voice, suppose they say: 'The Lord has not appeared to you!'" (Exodus 4:1)

a) Spiritually: 1) Wholeness, 2) Spiritual Wellness, 3) Sustained through Worship
b) Emotionally: 1) Self-Examination, 2) Brought into Religious Standing, 3) Acknowledges Readiness for the Journey
c) Socially: 1) Conviction, 2) Sunday, 3) Meditations
d) Culturally: 1) Present Family Standing, 2) Future Family, 3) Family Placement in Household of God, 4) Heritage: Moses was an Egyptian

2008

II. Through the Vast Deserts

"The Lord our God, we will serve and His voice we will obey." (Joshua 24:24)

a) Steadfastly: 1) Following the Pillar of Cloud and Fire, 2) Divine Liturgy and Communion, 3) Psalms and Prayers,
4) Happiness and Awe: Song of Moses
b) Obediently: 1) Our Burning Bush, 2) Church's Sacred Staff of Power, 3) Ark of Covenant Today, 4) Conquering Life's Circumstance
c) Patiencefully: 1) Fording the Plains of Sin, 2) Choosing to Suffer, 3) Slave and Shepherd, 4) Promise Land Bound, No Looking Back
d) Without Murmuring: 1) Man and Quail, 2) Wisdom, 3) Courage, 4) Optimism
e) Continually Serving: 1) Helping the Helpless, 2) Inspiring Others, 3) Reverence, 4) Likeness of the Lord Jesus Christ

2009

III. Crossing the Jordan into the River Valley

"Israel served the Lord all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua, who had known all the works of the Lord which He had done for Israel." (Joshua 24:31)

a) Humility: 1) Obscurity in a Ravine, 2) Sepulcher Unknown, 3) Feeling for Others More, 4) New Dispensation
b) Purity of Heart: 1) Aaron to Eleazar, 2) Caused Crumbling of World's Oldest City, 3) Following the Leader, 4) Leading the Lost
c) Patience: 1) God will Provide Directions, 2) His Authority First, 3) Fortifying the Camp: Not Forsaking the Assembly,
4) Without Wavering, 5) Without Division
d) Longsuffering: 1) Great Battles and Weary Hands, 2)Keep the Passover, 3) Being the Encourager, 4) Stricken in Years
e) Giving to God: 1) Dividing the Spoils, 2) Tithing, 3) Our Inheritance, 4) Treasure in Heaven
f) Purposefully: 1) Forsaking the Pleasures of Sin, 2) Choosing to Suffer, 3) Slave and Shepherd, 4) Promise Land Bound, No Looking Back

2010

IV. Glimpses of the Rainbow over the Land of Milk and Honey

"When Moses went into the Tabernacle of Meeting, he heard the voice of one speaking to him from above the Mercy Seat that was on the Ark of the Testimony, from between the two cherubim..." (Numbers 7:90)

a) Evangelical: 1) Sow of Peace, 2) Sharing of Survival, 3) Saving Souls, 4) Salvation
b) Culturally: 1) Present Family Standing, 2) Future Family, 3) Family Placement in Household of God, 4) Heritage: Moses was an Egyptian

e) Evangelical: 1) Sow of Peace, 2) Sharing of Survival, 3) Saving Souls, 4) Salvation

Mighty Arrows Magazine   October, 2006

Mighty Arrows Magazine   October, 2006
or judgments but Biblically based in focus, thought and consideration. Establishing a spiritual friendship helped me personally as a youth to overcome many temptations, gave me an anticipated time frame in which to meet with my spiritual friend under no other guise or anxiety than to encourage our spiritual growth.

Growth and equilibrium in my spiritual life were explored on many levels through this friendship. Many important issues pertaining to our teenage years were addressed between the two of us. Many resolutions obtained through the meeting of two minds concerning spiritual warfare. We learned through time to spiritually grow by appreciating the growth and experience of the other. There was no hero to this friendship, no one better than the other, but an unspoken humbleness developed with time and maturity.

“A faithful friend is a sturdy shelter. He that has found one has found a treasure” (Ecclesiastes 6:14)

Morale: A good friend is priceless.

We were taught in Sunday School that our spiritual friendship will grow through the years to be enriched by obstacles and worldly problems. And indeed it was. I look back now upon the spiritual friendship that developed between my spiritual friend and I and am today very thankful to God I was encouraged to take the opportunity to make a spiritual friendship in which I learned to welcome the meeting of two minds concerning spiritual warfare. The widow Judith volunteers to deliver the Israelites after rebuking them for losing faith in God when under siege. She goes to the Assyrian camp, pretending to inform them of the leader of the Ammonites, told Holofernes that God wouldn’t join him in a war against Media. So, he went, the great city of Nineveh, sends General Holofernes to King Nebuchadnezzar, who reigned over the Assyrians in the city of Nineve, sends General Holofernes to punish the western nations because the western nations wouldn’t join him in a war against Media. So, he went, and every nation except the Israelites submitted. Achar, the leader of the Ammonites, told Holofernes that God will defend the Israelites as long as they remain faithful. But, Holofernes goes ahead and surrounds the Israelites in the ancient Palestinian town of Bethulia, near Jerusalem.

Part One: (chapters 1-7)

King Nebuchadnezzar, who reigned over the Assyrians in the great city of Nineve, sends General Holofernes to punish the western nations because the western nations wouldn’t join him in a war against Media. So, he went, and every nation except the Israelites submitted. Achar, the leader of the Ammonites, told Holofernes that God will defend the Israelites as long as they remain faithful. But, Holofernes goes ahead and surrounds the Israelites in the ancient Palestinian town of Bethulia, near Jerusalem.

Part Two: (chapters 8-16)
The widow Judith volunteers to deliver the Israelites after rebuking them for losing faith in God when under siege. She goes to the Assyrian camp, pretending to inform them against her people. Holofernes is charmed, and invites her to a banquet in his tent. Holofernes becomes drunk at the banquet, and falls asleep. Judith gets a sword, beheads him, wraps his head in a bag, and takes it to her people. This makes it easy for the Israelites to attack the Assyrians, which now have no leader, and the Assyrians flee in panic. Then they celebrate the victory, and praise the Lord, and go to Jerusalem to offer thanksgiving.

Maybe you thought that having a higher IQ would make it easier to do better in exams or finish your homework a lot faster! Relying on intelligence may help you complete certain tasks faster or better. But if you want to be successful in your life as a whole— including the big picture “eternal life” then seek wisdom. There was once a man that lived, just like any human who was born into this world (Wisdom chapter 7). Sure he was son of royalty so he received a little bit more attention then the rest of us. But what distinguished him was not the kingship, for many kings have come and gone.

What set him apart was his wisdom. I am sure by now my beloved reader you know who I am talking about. For his name is synonymous with wisdom. Yes, it’s King Solomon. In fact there is a whole book in our Holy Bible called “Wisdom of Solomon”. It’s found in the Orthodox and Catholic Bible.

In reading this awesome Book of the Holy Bible “Wisdom of Solomon” you will find that the profound aim of the Holy Spirit for this Holy Book is to build your soul spiritually and fortify her with Divine wisdom against the currents of evil and the vain lusts of the temporary world. In Chapter 7 we read about wisdom that “There is in her a spirit that is intelligent, holy, loving the good, all-powerful, overseeing all, and penetrating through all spirits”. What is wisdom but the Holy Spirit of God?